



MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

Maryland Department of Health

J-1 Visa Waiver Policy and Procedure

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J-1 Visa Waiver Policy

A. Purpose

The purpose of the J-1 Visa Waiver is to improve access to health care services and physician workforce shortage in underserved areas of the State. The State of Maryland, through the Maryland Department of Health's (MDH) Office of Population Health Improvement's Office of Workforce Development (OPHI), recommends qualified physicians who have applied for J-1 Visa Waivers who serve in areas of Maryland's greatest need, as determined by MDH. The purpose of this Policy is to specify the conditions under which the State may sponsor these physicians, and when the State may write letters of support for federal agency sponsorship.

B. Background

Federal laws allow foreign physicians who have a valid J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa to pursue graduate medical education or training in the United States (U.S.). The J-1 Visa allows physicians to remain in the U.S. until their studies or training are completed. However, upon completion of their program, the physicians must return to their home country for at least two years before they will be able to return to the U.S.

Physicians who are subject to, but do not wish to comply with the two-year home country residence requirement may apply for a Waiver of that requirement under any of the five grounds provided by the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act:

1. The exchange visitor's government must state that they have no objection to the exchange visitor not returning to the home country to satisfy the two-year foreign residence requirement of Section 213(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, and remaining in the U.S. if the exchange visitor chooses to do so.
2. If the exchange visitor is working on a project for or of interest to a U.S. Federal Government Agency, and that agency has determined that the visitor's continued stay in the U.S. is vital to one of its programs, a Waiver may be granted if the exchange visitor's continued stay in the U.S. is in the public interest.
3. If the exchange visitor can demonstrate that he/she will be persecuted upon return to the home country due to race, religion, or political opinion, the exchange visitor can apply for a Waiver.
4. If the exchange visitor can demonstrate that his/her departure from the U.S. would cause extreme hardship to his/her U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent resident spouse or child, the exchange visitor may apply for a Waiver. (The mere separation from family is not considered to be sufficient to establish exceptional hardship.)
5. Pursuant to the requirements of Public Law 103-416, of October 25, 1994, foreign medical graduates who have an offer of full-time employment at a health facility in a designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA); sign a contract to begin employment at such a facility within 90 days of receiving such Waiver; work at the health care facility within 90 days of receiving such a Waiver; continue to work at the health care facility for a total of 40 hours per week, and not less than three years;

may obtain a waiver. The J-1 Visa Waiver Program is available only to (under the federal enabling law, Section 220, PL 103-416) an alien admitted to the U.S. as a non-immigrant under Section 101 (a)(15)(J) of the Act, or who acquired status under that section after admission to the U.S. to participate in an exchange program or graduate medical education or training (as of June 1, 1996).

C. Criteria and Policies for J-1 Exchange Visitor (J-1 Physician)

To be eligible for *sponsorship and/or support by Maryland, including a letter of support*, a physician must:

1. Applicants must have completed a residency-training program in Family Practice, General Pediatrics, General Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, or Psychiatry (“medical practice”) or Specialty and intend to practice in Maryland for a period of three consecutive years. All J-1 applicants for the State of Maryland must be practicing in Primary Care or Specialty care. The following are considered primary care; Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Psychiatry, and General Practice. Please note, Hospitalist are NOT considered as primary care. Any sub-specialty will be considered as a Specialist.
2. Provide documentation of successful completion of:
 - a. Steps 1, 2, and 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (Note: Successful completion of a qualifying examination in Maryland is a licensure requirement in this State. Effective July 22, 2002, an applicant who has failed the exam more than three times is ineligible for licensure and will not receive State support for sponsorship of a J-1 Visa Waiver.) (COMAR 10.32.01.03);
 - b. License to practice medicine in the State of Maryland, or proof of application to obtain one;
 - c. Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates Clinical Skills Assessment certification; and
 - d. Residential training certification.
3. A signed employment agreement or contract with an eligible medical practice (see Section 4 for practice site eligibility). The contract submitted with the Waiver application should not be subsequently altered without prior approval of the MDH OPHI. Employers should not ask the J-1 physician to sign addendums to the contract or to sign additional contracts, nor should the J-1 physician sign any addendums or additional contracts without prior approval of the MDH OPHI. The employment agreement or contract must include:
 - a. Contract Hours: Statement that the J-1 physician will practice a minimum of 40 hours per week (at least 32 of the required 40 hours must be in direct patient care), not including hospital rounds, travel, and on-call time, for not less or more than the required three (3) years, at the approved practice site listed on the site application(s). Candidates are also advised to set maximum

limits on the number of hours they are contractually obliged to work per week. Also note that a break in service exceeding 60 days will result in an extension of the service obligation equal to the amount of time of the break in service. If the physician is absent from medical practice more than 180 consecutive days, the physician must submit to the OPHI a verification of status statement. This statement must include: 1) the date when the physician stopped employment; 2) the date the physician expects to return to work; 3) the emergency reason as to why the physician had to be absent for more than 180 consecutive days; and 4) physician's current address, e-mail, and telephone number. OPHI is required to report all findings to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) who makes the final determination in the matter of the physician's immigration status.

- b. Work- location: Name and address of all medical practice sites including hospitals where the J-1 physician will be working must be included in the application. If the J-1 physician will working at more than one site, all site applications must be submitted for approval. (See Section F for information about adding a site.) Each site listed should be located in a designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or Medically Underserved Area or Medically Underserved Population (MUA/P). A location not in a HPSA, MUA, or MUA/P is known as a flex location.

Flex applications are recommended for physicians who are serving patients from a rural or underserved area even though the practice site is not geographically located within a federally designated area (HPSA or MUA or MUA/P). The state of Maryland has 10 flex slots each cycle. Please note this is NOT in addition to the State 30 slots. To check on site eligibility for flex or non-flex please check on the link below

<http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/GeoAdvisor/ShortageDesignationAdvisor.aspx>

- c. Additional Employment: No moonlighting is allowed. Any additional or outside employment in which the J-1 physician engages must be stipulated in the original contract or added to a new contract which must then be resigned by all parties and resubmitted to OPHI for recommendation for USCIS approval. J-1 physicians should not sign contracts with other employers as this is in violation of the Maryland prohibition of moonlighting, and in violation of the Federal regulations governing H1-B Visa holders. Further, any employment expectations regarding hours worked vs. hospital rounds and/or on-call requirements must be specified in the contract; the same applies to travel time.
- d. Non-compete prohibition: Do NOT include a non-compete clause or restrictive covenants preventing or discouraging the J-1 physician from continuing to practice in the service area of former employment.
- e. INTCA requirements: Contain the contractual requirements set forth in Section 214 (k) (1) (B) and (C) of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act.¹

¹ Public Law 103-416 - October 25, 1994, provides that:

- f. OPHI's role in contracts: MDHOPHI does not have the authority to mediate between employer and employees participating in the J-1 program, to investigate allegations of wrongdoing from either party, or to enforce labor standards. If the OPHI becomes aware of such issues, it will recommend seeking advice from an attorney or contacting the appropriate agency (i.e., Medicaid Fraud and Abuse, Department of Labor, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services). Further, OPHI assumes no responsibility for negotiations, content of employment contracts, or for termination of the contracts.
 - g. Timeline for Contract Submission: The J-1 physician must begin work within 90 days of approval of waiver by USCIS. OPHI will review applications of physicians who are able to begin work within four months of application or latest by July 1st of the following year.
- 4. Accept all patients regardless of ability to pay. This includes ensuring that at least 50 percent of patients seen by J-1 Visa physicians will be made up of Medicaid or Medicare recipients or sliding-fee scale patients. A sliding-fee scale based on the federal poverty guidelines should be used to discount services to low-income un- and under-insured persons, and notice must be provided to the public that such a policy is in effect.
 - 5. Monitoring: By signing this Policy, the J-1 physician agrees to be monitored by OPHI on a periodic basis for compliance with this agreement, occasional site visits, and provide documentation in the form required by the Department, State, and Federal Law. A copy of the Maryland Site Monitoring Form is available on the MDH OPHI [web site](#).
 - 6. Recruitment fee prohibition: The J-1 physician may not sign an employment agreement or contract with an eligible medical practice that has charged a recruitment fee for physician referrals received from the OPHI. The J-1 physician should submit a signed, notarized statement to the effect.
 - 7. Verification of Employment: The J-1 physician will annually sign and submit a Verification of Employment Form to OPHI.
 - 8. Notification of disciplinary action/termination: The J-1 physician shall notify OPHI, in writing, within 30 days of disciplinary action and/or termination. In the event of any emergency termination due to circumstances bearing on the health or safety of patients or other individuals, OPHI must be notified no later than seven days after the emergency termination.

Waiver of the Two-Year Home Country Physical Presence Requirement for certain Foreign Medical Graduates Section 220 of the 1994 Technical Corrections Act created a new section 214 (k) of the Act, setting terms and conditions imposed upon State-based waivers including, among other things that the Foreign Medical Graduate will:

- (k) (1) "Submit to USIA a 'no objection' statement from the government of his or her home country, if he or she is contractually obligated to return to that country;
- (k) (2) Demonstrate an offer of full-time employment at a health care facility located in an HHS-designated shortage area and agree to begin employment within 90 days of receiving the waiver approval;
- (k) (3) Agree to practice medicine for that health care facility for at least three years; and
- (k) (4) Agree to practice medicine only in HHS-designated shortage areas during this three-year period."

9. Conditions leading to and consequences of default: Understand that a J-1 physician is in default if, at any time, he/she does not meet the conditions listed in this section. Violations may result in the J-1 physician and/or medical practice being disqualified for referral or sponsorship. Any violations of the conditions of state sponsorship shall be reported to OPHI and to the USCIS. A J-1 physician found in violation of these conditions may have his/her visa revoked by USCIS, and may be required to return to his or her home country.

D. Medical Practice Criteria and Policies

To be eligible to employ a J-1 Visa Waiver physician, a medical practice must adhere to the following criteria and policies:

1. Shortage designation requirement: Be located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or federally designated Medically Underserved Area or Population (MUA/P), and have been operating at least six months before requesting a J-1 Visa physician. However, 10 out of the 30 slots are available for sites located in non-designated areas, but are still providing services to an underserved population. To see if a site is located in a designated or undesignated area, check on the link below
<http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/GeoAdvisor/ShortageDesignationAdvisor.aspx>.
2. **NEW!** Statement of need: Submit a statement as to why the J-1 physician is needed at the site or in the community. Also include the types of services that the physician will be providing to the community.
3. **NEW!** Provider request limitation: A practice site is may not request more than a total of **three** J-1 physicians in any given cycle either through the site's human resources process or through an employment agency.
4. Contract term/compensation: Agree to employ the J-1 physician for no less or no more than the required three years at a market rate. Employment agreements or contracts must incorporate by reference the conditions of J-1 Visa Waiver sponsorship provided in this document, and must meet the conditions described in section C (3) above.
5. Agreement to serve the underserved: Accept all patients regardless of ability to pay, accept Medicaid and Medicare on assignment, and use a sliding-fee scale based on federal poverty guidelines to discount services to low-income uninsured persons. The Medical Practice must provide notice to the public that such a policy is in effect and apply these access standards to the entire medical practice, not simply to those patients treated by the J-1 physician. These requirements should be in place for at least three months immediately preceding the request for waiver.
6. Work-site documentation requirements: Submit a separate site application for each site at which the J-1 physician will be required to work. This will include all practice sites as well as hospitals. See section F for more information about adding a site.
7. Annual reporting requirements: Report annually, in writing, to the OPHI on the status of each J-1 physician via verification of employment form. Sample monitoring forms are available on MDH OPHI [web site](#).

8. Notice of disciplinary action and/or termination: Notify OPHI, in writing, within 30 days of disciplinary action and/or termination of the J-1 physician. In the event of any emergency termination due to circumstances bearing on the health or safety of patients or other individuals, OPHI must be notified, no later than seven days after the emergency termination.
9. Credentialing: Assume responsibility for credentialing and for quality assurance of J-1 physician applicants. OPHI does not credential nor does it make any representations concerning the qualifications or competency of physicians placed under this program; these responsibilities rest solely with the sponsor.
10. Medical Practice Supplemental Agreement: Sign an agreement with OPHI indicating that if, any time, OPHI finds the medical practice in default of this Policy, violations may result in the medical practice and/or the J-1 physician being disqualified for referral or sponsorship and (if applicable) any present J-1 physician employed by the medical practice may be transferred to another eligible medical practice.
11. Verification of Representation Agreement: Sign an agreement with OPHI indicating that the Attorney or Representative employed to complete the J-1 physician's application is not affiliated with the medical practice.
12. Prior Recruitment Effort: Provide proof of at least six-months recruitment efforts within the last year (does not have to be continuous) to recruit a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident physician. Recruitment/retention notices must be described, and copies of these efforts along with a comprehensive summary must be provided. A statement of difficulty in recruiting U.S. citizen physicians is NOT sufficient; evidence must include but is not limited to newspaper advertisements, national, and State medical journal announcements most likely to bring responses from qualified, available doctors, and job opportunity notices placed in medical schools including all medical schools in Maryland. If exceptional circumstances exist that prevented this recruitment, detailed explanations will be considered and could reduce this requirement. Exceptional circumstances include, but are not limited to the following: sudden loss of a sole practitioner in a rural community; the absence of physicians in a targeted specialty who will accept Medical Assistance patients; small (under 100 beds) or rural hospitals; or loss of more than 50 percent of practitioners in a specific specialty in the county where the practice is located. Sites can verify a circumstance outlined above by providing a brief summary describing in detail the recruitment process. The U.S. Department of State (DOS) is the final authority in determining the adequacy of the recruitment process. Therefore, applicants should be prepared to provide documentation regarding recruitment efforts to either OPHI or DOS, if requested.
13. Agree to comply: The site must agree to comply with the physician eligibility requirement listed in Section C of this document.
14. Monitoring: By signing this Policy, medical practice site agrees to be monitored by OPHI on a periodic basis for compliance with this agreement, occasional site visits, and provide documentation in the form required by the Department, State, and Federal Law. Sample monitoring forms are available on MDH OPHI [website](#).
15. Conditions leading to and consequences of default: Understand that a medical practice is considered in default if, at any time, the conditions listed in this section

are not met. Violations may result in the J-1 physician and/or medical practice being disqualified for referral or sponsorship. Any violations of the conditions of sponsorship shall be reported to the USCIS. A medical practice found in violation of these conditions is ineligible for placement of J-1 Visa Waiver physicians.

16. OPHI's role in contracts: OPHI does not have the authority to mediate between employer and employees participating in the J-1 program, to investigate allegations of wrongdoing from either party, or to enforce labor standards. If OPHI becomes aware of such issues, it will recommend seeking advice from an attorney or contacting the appropriate agency (i.e., Medicaid Fraud and Abuse, Department of Labor, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services). Further, OPHI assumes no responsibility for negotiations or content of employment contracts or for termination of the contracts.
17. Sign a notarized employer attestation signifying that the medical practice has not paid a recruitment fee to OPHI or a recruitment service for employment referrals originating with OPHI.

E. NEW! Utilizing Other Resources: HHS/ARC

If a physician qualifies for The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Exchange Visitor Program (HHS) or The Appalachian Regional Commission Program (ARC), then MDH will automatically direct that physician to apply to one of the two programs. The brief overview of each program is as follows:

HHS

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services manages the Exchange Visitor Program that offers a waiver if the physician is practicing primary care and doing research or clinical care. The physician must also be working at a site that has a HPSA score of 7 or higher, must be a Rural Health Clinic, Section 330 site (FQHC), or a Native American / Native Alaskan tribe medical facility.

ARC

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) will request a waiver of immigration requirements for foreign-trained physicians doing residency work in the United States under a J-1 visa. Physicians receiving these waivers must be practicing primary care or are a hospitalist for at least three years. Waiver recommendations may be made for physicians who are specialist if the appropriate showing of need is provided. This program also requires the applicant to receive a recommendation from the Governor, the ARC State Alternate or at the State's option, a high-ranking state public health official. The Appalachian region of Maryland includes Allegany, Garrett, and Washington county. Any applications received after September 30, 2018 will require a \$3,000 administration fee to be paid to ARC.

MDH will provide technical assistance to any provider who qualifies for either of these programs. For more information, contact temi.oshiyoye@maryland.gov.

F. Application Period/ Review Process

NEW! Applications will be accepted between October 1st and December 1st of each calendar year. Please note MDH gives priority to primary care providers. Sub-specialty may also be considered. (See section C for primary care and sub-specialty definition) MDH OPHI J-1 review panel will spend 6 weeks after application closes to review all applications. MDH OPHI recommendation for a J-1 Visa Waiver will not be made until all applications are received. MDH OPHI's recommendation to the Department of State (DOS) will be based on the current workforce shortage of the State, areas of the State with specific need (rural and underserved areas), type of primary care/ specialist service provided, [OPHI's Office of Primary Care's Needs Assessment](#), site location in a HPSA, MUA, or MDH designated area, and other state priorities will also be considered. OPHI will send the J-1 Visa Waiver recommendation to DOS.

Within 10 weeks, DOS will review the application and provide an approval letter which will be sent to United States Citizens and Immigration Service (USCIS). Within 4 weeks, USCIS will grant this Waiver. The Waiver will be sent to the physician and attorney.

All applications submitted to MDH must include the review file and J-1 physician's last name on each page of application. The MDH Office of Population Health Improvement's Office Workforce Development (OPHI) must receive the following documents, organized in the order listed:

1. Cover Letter from the employer wishing to hire the J-1 physician for three years, stating:
 - a. Why the physician is needed, also include the types of services that the physician will be providing to the community;
 - b. All sites where the physician will work;
 - c. That the physician will work at minimum 40 hours a week (32 of those hours must be in direct patient care);
 - d. Indicate whether each site is in a federally designated shortage area or not (indicate HPSA ID number and/or MUA ID number, the FIPS County Code, and Census Tract Number);
 - e. Home country of the physician;
 - f. J-1 Visa Waiver application file case number of the physician;
 - g. Type of provider; and
 - h. That the employer accepts all patients regardless of ability to pay.
2. Proof of at least six-month's efforts by employer within the last year (does not have to be continuous) to recruit a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident physician. (See section D (11) for details);
3. An employment agreement or contract between the J-1 physician and an eligible practice. (See section C (3) for details);
4. Copies of all forms DS-2019 (formerly IAP-66);
5. Completed Data Sheet (DS 3035);

6. J-1 Physician's Curriculum Vitae;
7. Copy of all diplomas;
8. Copy of all academic transcripts;
9. Copy of all Physician Licenses;
10. Copy of Educational Commission for Medical Graduates credentials;
11. Copy of U.S. Medical Licensing Examination Score Reports for Steps 1, 2 and 3;
12. Letter(s) of Recommendation for J-1 physician;
13. Sliding Fee Scale and Sliding Fee Scale Policy for Medical Practice;
14. J-1 Site Application(s) with required attachments. One application for every site, hospital or private practice, is needed where the J-1 physician will be required to work;
15. J-1 Verification of Representation – Medical Practice;
16. J-1 Verification of Representation – Physician;
17. Employer Attestation (signed by President/CEO and notarized);
18. Employer Exchange Attestation (signed and notarize);
19. Signed J-1 Visa Waiver Policy requirements signifying agreement by the J-1 physician, medical practice, and medical representative;
20. J-1 Visa/National Interest Waiver Programs Verification of Employment;
21. Statement of Number Financial Obligation in lieu of No Objection Letter (signed and notarized);
22. All other forms that are required by the U.S. Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service;
23. An original *and* one copy of the entire Waiver request package must be submitted. The J-1 Visa Waiver review file number and applicant's last name (*should be the same as in the Introduction to this section*) must be typed on lower right hand corner of every page of the request package and copy of the package.

G. Adding/Deleting a Site

If an employer is adding or deleting a work location, the employer and physician must agree to the changes in site location and hours. The new site application must be signed by both parties (employee and employer). The application must be sent to OPHI for approval. If the current site(s), not including the new site, had originally been approved as a "regular" Waiver (in a HPSA or MUA), the new site **MUST** also be located in a HPSA or MUA as it was the original granted approval by USCIS. Both parties must submit a new signed contract addendum showing that the physician is agreeing to the new work location.

H. Transfers

1. Transfers: A J-1 Visa Waiver application is approved for a specific location, and an

employer cannot place the J-1 physician at another address or stop the J-1 physician from working at a site without first submitting a formal request for transfer with OPHI and receiving approval from USCIS. This rule applies even if there is no change in employer, only change in site(s). Movement of a J-1 physician to a location that has not been approved by OPHI will result in the J-1 physician and site being in non-compliance with the program and may be reported as such to USCIS. OPHI prefers that transfers from one employer to another be a choice of last resort. However, if circumstances warrant a transfer, it will be recommended when the appropriate documentation has been received. If OPHI determines, in its sole discretion, that an employer has excessive transfers, the employer may not be eligible for a placement in the next fiscal year. J-1 participants wishing to transfer must submit the required documents before the transfer will take place. If all necessary information is provided and found to be appropriate, OPHI will send a letter of support for transfer to USCIS, with a copy to petitioner, within 30 days after receipt of the request. If the J-1 physician is unemployed for a time during the transfer, that time will not count towards the three-year obligation.

2. Transferring from Maryland to Another State/ within the State:

The J-1 physician must:

- a. Notify the OPHI, in writing, of the intent to transfer, detailing the reasons for the transfer.
- b. Provide the complete name, address, and phone number of the new employer and date of transfer.
- c. Copy of new contract.
- d. Site application (if transferring within Maryland).
- e. The original employer must:
 - (1) Provide a letter to the OPHI releasing the J-1 physician from employment which explains the reasons for termination along with a completed J-1 Verification of Employment form.

Note: If the original employer refuses to release the J-1 physician from the employment contract and the J-1 physician believes that the employer is in violation of the employment contract, the J-1 physician should seek the advice of his or her own legal counsel about terminating the contract. OPHI will not review a transfer request without a letter of release from the original employer, unless the contract has been legally terminated. If a J-1 physician terminates the employment contract without cause, the employer should seek the advice of the employer's legal counsel. OPHI does not have the authority to determine legal grounds for terminating an employment contract. The transfer approval letter will be forwarded to USCIS.

I. Letters of Support for Federal Agency Sponsorship

MDH OPHI will write a letter of support for sponsorship, if request aligns with the requirement of the J-1 Visa Waiver Program and Maryland J-1 Visa Waiver Policy. MDH OPHI has the **right to refuse** to write a letter of support. Example of State support letters are: Completion Letter, National Interest Letter, and Public Interest Letter.

1. **Completion Letter:** Document showing J-1 service obligation completed in the State of Maryland. Letter will show dates obligation began and completed as well as the site

physicians completed the service.

2. **National Interest Letter (NIW):** A NIW letter of support from the State will show previous and future commitment to working in an underserved or rural part of the State. Site location must be in HPSA or MUA

How to Apply for a National Interest Waiver (NIW)

If you were approved for a J-1 Visa Waiver in Maryland AND are working in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) OR in a Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUA/P), and are requesting a NIW, you will need to submit the following information:

- Letter requesting NIW (indicate the date in which physician began J-1 obligation and all the sites he/she will be working);
- Revised agreement reflecting the dates of service;
- Verification of Employment form;
- Site application(s) if adding or deleting site;
- I-797 A form; and
- Updated signed contract with employer showing new obligation years.

If you were approved for a J-1 Visa Waiver and are transferring from another state or are on a H1-B and are requesting a 5- year NIW AND are working in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) OR in a Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUAP), you will need to submit the following:

- Letter requesting NIW (indicate the date in which physician began J-1 obligation and all the sites he/she will be working);
 - Contract/Agreement;
 - Site Application(s);
 - J-1 Verification of Representation – Medical Practice; and
 - J-1 Verification of Representation – Physician
 - I-797 A form (J-1 only)
3. **Public Interest Letter (PIL):** A PIL from the State is to show previous or current commitment to working in a rural or underserved area of the State. Site location **MUST** be in a HPSA or MUA.

How to Apply

- Signed contract reflecting dates requested;
- Proof that site is in HPSA; and
- I-797A

J. State Contact

All correspondence should be directed to:

Temí Oshiyoye, M.P.H.
Director State Office of Rural Health
Workforce Coordinator
Office of Population Health Improvement
Maryland Department of Health
201 West Preston Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
Phone: 410-767-4467 • Fax: 410-333-7501

K. Signature Page

Please send the signed copy of this page to the address below

MDH's sponsorship of a J-1 Visa Waiver applicant's request for a waiver is contingent upon the completion of all required and necessary national and international educational, employment, criminal, and national security background checks of the Applicant by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and by any other federal agency or program charged with conducting security checks on foreign nationals and/or resident aliens in the United States. Sponsorship of an applicant's request for a J-1 Visa Waiver should not be construed as a certification, endorsement, or Waiver by the OPHI of any security procedures and background investigations that are required or necessary and that may have been conducted by the USCIS or any other federal agency responsible for authorizing the applicant to enter, reside, and work in the United States on any basis.

I have read, understand, and agree to the foregoing terms. I further understand that failure to comply with these requirements may result in denial or loss of J-1 Visa Waiver status.

J-1 Visa Waiver Applicant Physician:

Physician

Signature:_____Date:_____

Physician

Name:_____

Medical Practice:

Name:_____

Authorized Medical Practice Representative:

Signature:_____Date:_____

Name:_____

Title:_____

December 1999
Rev: March 2000
Rev: April 2001
Rev: May 2002
Rev: January 2003
Rev: September 2003
Rev: February 2005
Rev: May 2005
Rev: August 2006
Rev: October 2008
Rev: October 2009
Rev: April 2012
Rev: October 2012
Rev: May 2013
Rev: September 2015
Rev: July 2017
Rev: August 2017
Rev: October 2018